

Secondary phase newsletter

Friday 01 April 2022

Creating Tomorrow's Citizens Today



All-through news

Welcome to the final newsletter of this term. Christmas now seems a long time ago and we are all looking ahead to enjoying warmer weather and lighter evenings. Year 7 particularly enjoyed their residential visit last week. Sunny Suffolk, a beautiful seaside setting and wonderful grounds of a manor house- a wonderful backdrop to a set of adventures. It was a great experience for all; many of the young people had never been away from home before so had to overcome this challenge. A big thank you to all staff who went and to the young people who were a credit to the Simon Balle Community.

Year 5 and year 6 are now looking forward to their own residential adventures, nearer home! In the last newsletter, we thanked families for their continuous support. This included taking a responsible attitude with regards to managing covid. We continue to hear of both children and staff who are poorly but know that most families are managing this well.

Last night we were thrilled to see the return of the ever popular "Evening of Drama", after an almost 3 year interval. The variety of the event was astounding; starting with a showcase of work created in KS3 lessons, an A Level monologue and also with Y6, Y7, Y8 enrichment students showing their skills. What then followed was the "traditional" House Drama event but with 2 houses working together to perform a 30 minute play. And what great and amusing performances! "The Greatest Showman" (Mimram/Beane), "A Very Potter Musical" (Ashbourne/Lea) and finally "Annie" (New/Rib). With around 20 students from Y7-Y12, in each performance, plus scrip writers, choreographers,

producers, lighting experts, music and sound technicians- all students- it was a feast to behold. A huge well done to all students. Thanks too to Ms Palmer, Green and Wallace and other supporting staff. And to a marvellous and responsive audience. It is great to have this back! Well done.

Covid

Although restrictions are being eased unfortunately covid is still in circulation in the community and it is worth bearing in mind the following:

Be kind – respect people wearing masks or keeping their distance from you. They may well be very vulnerable to infection

Be informed – know your level of risk and get good, trusted advice on managing it

Be vaccinated or boosted – ensure you and those around you are vaccinated when invited

Be safe – manage your risk when socially mixing (hands, face, space, fresh air)

Be prepared – if you get Covid, stay at home and get early treatment should you need it.

Local traffic and roads around Simon Balle

There is a serious and growing problem with speeding traffic on London Road along a school route used daily by parents and children as they walk to Simon Balle schools. Drivers are frequently flouting the 40mph speed limit and driving at well over 50mph!

The road meets every criterion for the installation of a speed camera with the single exception that not enough 'serious' accidents have yet occurred. This is a road that is heavily used by HGVs, has an average of 35,000 vehicle users daily, no safety barriers (these were removed in the lower section in 2020 and never put on the top section) and a walking route to not only to our school but four other nurseries and primary schools within a mile radius.

Increased community pressure has resulted in more frequent police speed checks using radar guns during recent months and the police have quite reasonably

targeted school pick-up and collection times for these exercises.

An on-line petition has been set up to ask the police to install speed cameras along this stretch of road. If we as a school are promoting walking to school we must ensure that the roads are safe for our students. To that end, we would ask you to scan the bar code which will take you to the campaign. The more signatures the better!



<https://www.change.org/StopLondonRoadSpeeding>

Feedback on flu vaccination programme

We have been asked for feedback from parents on last year's flu immunisation programme. Please click on the link below.

<https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/family-feedback>

Queen's Platinum Jubilee

To celebrate this unique event we will be holding a whole school picnic on Friday 27th May. All students from Reception to Y13 will be involved. Picnics can be ordered the same way as the Christmas lunches via ParentPay. There will be competitions, games and much more. More information will be sent out after the Easter holiday

Move to Arbor

A quick reminder that you will be receiving a welcome email from Arbor in the first week back after the Easter break. This new MIS will take over some of the functions of Go4Schools immediately (attendance and homework) while behaviour and assessment/reports will migrate at a later date (we will keep you fully informed).

Please be patient with us all as we learn how to use this new and exciting system over the next few weeks!

You can read more about the changes on our [website](#).

Vacancies

We are currently looking for an English teacher, Health & Social Care teacher and an IT technician. Full details, including job and person specifications, can be found on our website.


Eco-Schools governing body committee



Dropping litter causes harm to wildlife and habitats. We all play a vital role in protecting and enhancing our environment. Please do not drop litter, and even better: pick some up during your Easter Holiday.

Environmental Challenge: How much litter can you collect in one hour?

Email a photo to browns@simonballe.herts.sch.uk to gain a house point (include name and year).



Link below for pumpkin recipe cards:
https://www.simonballe.herts.sch.uk/daily-life/canteen/?preview_id=445&preview_nonce=c7c51f2109&thumbnail_id=-1&preview=true

Music News

See the link below for our Music News, from Curriculum to Exam Results to Concerts! Well done to all!

<https://www.simonballe.herts.sch.uk/musical-news-01-04-2022/>

National Reading Champions Quiz

On Wednesday 30th March two teams of 4 students represented Simon Balle All-through School in one of the cross-regional heats for the National Reading Champions Quiz. Both teams did an excellent job at answering the quiz questions. Team B came 3rd out of 25 schools and Team A narrowly missed 3rd place by

just one point. Very well done to Sophia Bloss, Summer Lafferty, Amelia Czapp, Harry Brunton, Eloise Canham, James Chase, Audrey Pirt and Charlie Howes!



the week. This is a great opportunity for students to find out more about topics they enjoy and continue to learn at home. Please ask your daughter/son about this and join in with them if possible. A list for this week can be seen on the right. To support this the department has been running Geogglebox Tuesdays. Each week on a Tuesday lunchtime students can join up in G2 to watch a Geography themed program. We have watched a mixture of two series both by David Attenborough, Green Planet and Planet Earth. Students are exposed to lots of new vocabulary in Geography with the subject being one of the most important when it comes to developing literacy. To help students learn and embed new vocabulary, at the beginning of the year we started our 'Geography Word of the Week'. The image below shows you the different words we have used so far. Please encourage your daughter/son to use them. Our first word next term is Sovereignty.

Reach out for Refugees

The 'Reach out for Refugees' day was a great success. If you click on the link you will see that already at over £11,000 has been raised including offline donations that have been made. If Gift Aid is added in this takes the total to over £13,500. This will allow us to help so many people. You are still able to donate to this cause and a big well done to all the Hertfordshire schools which took part.

<https://www.justgiving.com/campaign/ReachOutForRefugees>



Geography Update

This term saw our Yr10 GCSE Geography students complete their coasts and urban fieldwork. Students spent the day in Walton-on-the-Naze collection primary data which they will have to write about in the exam next summer. The students were fantastic on both days and have been excellent at creating the different methods of data presentation. Next year we hope to run fieldwork locally for all KS3 classes.

The Geography team ventured to the primary school this term, teaching a Yr5 class all about the Alps and what an alpine environment would look like. We were very impressed with the ideas they had and also their knowledge of different countries around the world.

Geography enrichment this term has been focusing on GIS skills. Students have been using our digital software to map locations around the world, work out distances as well as plan their own journeys. Yr7 also had the opportunity to practice the map skills they had learnt at the start of the year. The students used OS Maps and GIS to explore Bawdsey Manor and its surrounding before going away on their residential trip.



Geogglebox! What can I watch to improve my Geography knowledge & understanding?

The show	The channel	The day/time	The lesson	Catch up?
Village by the Sea: Chelvey	FOUR	Monday 20th 19:30 - 20:00	Archaeologist Ben Robinson reveals the story of this coastal town's transformation from fishing village to seaside Victorian seaside resort.	BBC Player
The Hunt	FOUR	Monday 20th 19:30 - 20:00	Following the success of 'The Hunt for the Treasure Map', 'Shogun' actor Colin Hanks has read former dispatches to subdue such other as America.	BBC Player
Desire and Consent	FOUR	Monday 20th 19:30 - 20:00	Shogun's crew and crew prepare for a final bloody confrontation. Whiteknights Grey and Mike build a gun carriage for the UK's former Chief of the Air Staff.	A14
Headshots - Meet Your Absentees	FOUR	Monday 20th 20:00 - 20:30	Stu, Ali, Ghazali and Andy Gaskin investigate what Headshots looked like and how they lived as their 'Zoo Age' world.	BBC Player
The Golden Age of Steam	FOUR	Monday 20th 20:00 - 20:30	It's the golden age of steam and the story of how steam trains started to disappear in the 1950s, railfans were able to.	BBC Player
Shane Days	FOUR	Monday 20th 20:00 - 20:30	From the 1950s to the 1980s, Shane Days were the most popular railway events in Britain. From East Wiltshire to Bletchley.	BBC Player
Village by the Sea: Littlehampton	FOUR	Tuesday 21st 19:30 - 20:00	Archaeologist Ben Robinson discovers the story of the monks and village of the Holy Island of Lindisfarne, off the Northumberland coast.	BBC Player
Between	FOUR	Wednesday 22nd 19:30 - 20:00	Archaeologist Ben Robinson discusses the mystery story of this former medieval port on the Suffolk coast.	BBC Player
Village by the Sea: Robin Hood's Bay	FOUR	Wednesday 22nd 19:30 - 20:00	Archaeologist Ben Robinson reveals the story of engaging intrigue and sensory on the Yorkshire coast.	BBC Player
South of Spurred Islands	FOUR	Wednesday 22nd 20:00 - 20:30	Ben Fogle explores Gullfoss, Iceland's first and whether the physical aspect of the landscape makes it easier to make special.	BBC Player
How San Francisco	FOUR	Wednesday 22nd 20:00 - 20:30	Ben Fogle explores Gullfoss, Iceland's first and whether the physical aspect of the landscape makes it easier to make special.	BBC Player
Orange - Memphis	FOUR	Wednesday 22nd 20:00 - 20:30	Ben Fogle explores Gullfoss, Iceland's first and whether the physical aspect of the landscape makes it easier to make special.	BBC Player
Village by the Sea: Walsingham	FOUR	Wednesday 22nd 20:00 - 20:30	Archaeologist Ben Robinson discusses the surprising story of this former medieval port on the Suffolk coast.	BBC Player
Secret Towns of Southern France	FOUR	Thursday 23rd 19:30 - 20:00	Paul sets along a river, based on the story of the River to London, before heading to the border and exploring the.	BBC Player
World's Most Secret River	FOUR	Friday 24th 19:30 - 20:00	We go down rapids made dangerous by sheep. In a fishing spot and we chat with a park ranger who tells us of an.	My 5
Unsettled World	FOUR	Friday 24th 19:30 - 20:00	Part-producers, Thailand's cryptocurrency market is booming, with tech traders and rural farmers alike working on digital money.	A14
Coastal Britain with Kate Hardill	FOUR	Friday 24th 19:30 - 20:00	Charting an uncharted coastline, Kate Hardill's journey begins with a boat trip to the Hebrides, which her Victorian.	My 5
Chilling with Jason Gilman	FOUR	Friday 24th 19:30 - 20:00	Jason Gilman's 'Chilling with Jason Gilman' series begins with a boat trip to the Hebrides, which her Victorian.	My 5
Earth's Ocean Giants II	FOUR	Friday 24th 19:30 - 20:00	Jason Gilman's 'Chilling with Jason Gilman' series begins with a boat trip to the Hebrides, which her Victorian.	BBC Player
Mark Baker: Our Farm in the Desert	FOUR	Saturday 25th 19:30 - 20:00	Jason Gilman's 'Chilling with Jason Gilman' series begins with a boat trip to the Hebrides, which her Victorian.	A14
Countryfile	FOUR	Sunday 26th 17:30 - 18:30	Archives and Sam Taylor celebrates the 70th anniversary of the Penitentiaries Coast National Park, Cherie Marshall.	BBC Player
Desire and Consent: Coastal	FOUR	Sunday 26th 17:30 - 18:30	The special programme meets the people whose lives revolve around the south-eastern coast's 2000 miles of shoreline, from.	A14
Flak Team	FOUR	Sunday 26th 20:30 - 21:00	Flak Team's 'Flak Team' series begins with a boat trip to the Hebrides, which her Victorian.	BBC Player

The second half of the spring term saw the launch of Geogglebox. Every Monday students are sent a list of different television programmes which are on during

School Parliament

School Parliament continues to flourish under the stewardship of Ewan and Amelie (Head Boy and Head Girl). So much has already been achieved and it is great to see the level of debate and discussion in all parts of the school. The School Parliament recently took over school charities and it was great to see them choosing to support the Ukraine Refugees and providing education materials for all form groups in our all-through school. In addition they organised a sixth form charity football match for Red Nose Day and after an exciting draw the bookies underdogs, Year 13, went on to win on penalties. This is an event which will hopefully become an annual event on the school calendar. The crowds and atmosphere made it a really special occasion.

Today we have our School Parliament meeting discussing the impact of the mental health app 'TCUP', house events, diversity and ideas for displays around the school. We also have a special guest from a Herts Councillor, Vicky Smith, looking to set up a Youth Council in our local area. Exciting times!

Secondary news

Duke of Edinburgh Award

The Duke of Edinburgh award, founded by the recently deceased HRH Duke of Edinburgh has successfully launched at Simon Balle.

It is great to see that 98 students in years 9 and 10 have signed up to complete their Bronze award this year, continuing to build on the Duke's legacy to empower young people through the DofE award. The award empowers young people to discover new passions, equip them with vital life skills and build their confidence and self-belief, so they're ready to take on life's challenges and fulfil their potential. Every DofE programme is built by, and unique to, the young person themselves.

Students attend weekly in school sessions to learn the skills needed to successfully complete their expedition in July. This includes learning navigation skills, camp craft, first aid and how to work as a team. We are always looking for volunteers or donations of equipment to support the running of the DofE award. If you are interested in being a volunteer, please email Adam Quirke (quirkea@simonballe.herts.sch.uk) for more information.

Please visit the DofE website if you would like to find out more information: <https://www.dofe.org/> or the school website DofE page:

<https://www.simonballe.herts.sch.uk/curriculum-over-view/extra-curricular-provision/duke-of-edinburgh-award-scheme/>

Slice of Summer

We are very much looking forward to this year's summer fair, after a two year pause!! We are offering members of the Simon Balle community the opportunity to take a pitch at the Slice of Summer on 9th July, before we open bookings to the wider community. Please contact stallbooking@simonballepsa.org.uk stating what you are able to offer. Booking forms will be issued, provided what you are offering does not clash with an existing stallholder.

Volunteer opportunities

Wind and Brass Concert (secondary) - Saturday 23rd April

Signing up for any of the above is quick and easy, and can be done via: volunteersignup.org/WT7KY



And finally....

With many thanks to all families for their great support of Simon Balle, and your children/young people, this term. We know that our community and our partnerships between home and school are what makes us strong, even where challenges are inevitably faced. Wishing you all a restful and happy Easter break, however, this is enjoyed by families across our all-through school. We look forward to welcoming students back on Wednesday 20th April 2022.

With all best wishes,
Mrs Alison Saunders (Headteacher); Mrs Rachel Kirk (Vice Principal)

Dates

Friday 1st Apr	End of term - normal finish time
Tues 19th April	Inset day
Wed 20th April	Students back in school
Sat 23rd April	Wind & brass evening
Tues 26th April	Y8 parents evening
Mon 2nd	May Bank holiday

Hertfordshire County Council Services for Young People



Free Easter 2022 Holiday Activities for 13 – 16 year olds

priority booking for young people entitled to free school meals



- Fun and informal activities to help with a healthy lifestyle
- Free healthy food every day
- Physical activities such as: sports, dance, arts and games
- Meet and socialise with other young people

Contact us to find out more:

☎ 01992 588220
✉ 07860 065173 (text only)
✉ sfyp.welwynhatfield@hertfordshire.gov.uk
🌐 www.servicesforyoungpeople.org
📱 @HCCSFYP



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Your opportunities in Welwyn Hatfield

Monday 4th April – Friday 8th April

Hatfield Young People's Centre

Dates: 4th – 8th April, 3pm - 7pm

Venue: Hatfield Young People's Centre, Breaks Manor, Link Drive, Hatfield, AL10 8TP.

Age: 13-16 living or educated in Hertfordshire

Bookings open on 14th March and holiday activity booking codes will be made available to schools to share with eligible young people and families.

Contact us to find out more:

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